

**DRAFT**

**ANIMAL ISSUES TASK FORCE**

**Monday, July 30, 2012**

**6:00 p.m.**

**4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room – Busch Municipal Building**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mary Collette, Chairwoman; Carl Woodland, Janet Martin, Gwen Evans, Randall Voss, Kathleen Cowens, Dr. Rita Wittu, Carrie Galvan, and Dr. Michael Stafford.

**MEMBERS**

**ABSENT:** Alicia Mathis, Cindy Larson, and Christian Mechlin.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Clay Goddard, Mike Brothers, and Karen Prescott, Health Department; Anita Baker Climer, City Clerk's Office.

**GUESTS:** Jim Swain, Citizen; and Mark McCormick, News-Leader.

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Chairwoman Mary Collette called the meeting to order at approximately 6:01 p.m., and welcomed everyone.

The Task Force briefly reviewed the meeting minutes of June 25, 2012.

Anita Baker Climer, City Clerk's Office, briefly informed the Task Force that an updated draft copy of the June 25, 2012 is available at tonight's meeting, which includes a correction pertaining to the number of exhibits included due to the letter G being inadvertently used twice. Thus, on the last page within the fourth paragraph, Exhibit H is now reflected.

Randall Voss moved to approve the June 25, 2012 minutes as presented.

Janet Martin seconded the motion, and it was approved.

The Task Force briefly discussed last month's meeting, particularly the issue of whether or not the City/Mayor Bob Stephens has responded to the past letter from the United States Postal Service in relations to the issue of animal bits.

Clay Goddard, Assistant Director-Springfield/Greene County Health Department, informed the Task Force that a response from the City/Mayor Stephens has not yet occurred. He noted that he would talk with the Greg Burris, City Manager, and Mayor Stephens regarding a possible response from the City in the future.

Mike Brothers, Public Information Officer-Health Department, reported that if a response is made by the City/Mayor Stephens, a copy of the response would be sent to the Task Force.

Following the discussion, the Task Force and City staff briefly reviewed and discussed a handout in relations to the issue of pet licensing information for Benchmark Cities. *(Please refer to Exhibit A located within the City Clerk's Office for additional information.)*

Several of the Task Force members expressed their feelings in relations to the possibility of a pet license within the City, as well as whether or not he/she would support a pet license. They also discussed the possibility of micro chipping in relations to animals.

Karen Prescott, Environmental Health Administrator-Health Department, noted that St. Joseph, Missouri has still been unable to provide the City with their information at this time. She added that hopefully by the next Task Force meeting, the Health Department should have some information from St. Joseph.

Carrie Galvan arrived at approximately 6:10 p.m.

During the discussion, Mr. Goddard suggested that a Subcommittee of the Task Force could be formed to work with Health Department staff regarding compiling additional research and information pertaining to the issue of pet licensing.

The Task Force, Mr. Goddard and Ms. Prescott continued to discuss the issue of pet licensing and the possibility of requiring micro chipping of animals, as well as the Calgary, Canada pet licensing model.

Mr. Goddard noted that a PDF version of information regarding the Calgary, Canada pet licensing model is available. A PDF copy regarding the Calgary, Canada information was e-mailed out to the Task Force on July 11, 2012.

Mr. Goddard and Dr. Michael Stafford briefly explained that the issue of pet licensing would probably not be a revenue stream in relations to helping provide the Health Department with revenues for animal control. Mr. Goddard noted that he supports the issue of possibly requiring micro chipping animals within the City.

In response to a question posed by Kathleen Cowens, Dr. Stafford briefly addressed that to his knowledge there is no significant risks to animals relating to micro chipping at this time. He noted that are current ISO (International Organization for Standardization) regulations in relations to micro chipping of animals that have to be followed.

The Task Force briefly discussed that pet owners need to be responsible for their pets, as well as how some owners may comply with possible regulations, while others would not.

Following further discussion and per a consensus of the Task Force, they reported that a possible pet licensing program should be well- designed if possibly considered for implementation, including a provision for lifetime licensing, which should include additional incentives for spaying and neutering, and micro chipping, etc., for it to be effective within the City. However, some Task Force members seemed to still be unsure whether or not he/she feels a possible pet licensing program should be implemented within the City in the future.

Chairwoman Collette briefly expressed that she feels the possibility of a pet licensing program would help produce data for the Health Department in relations to animal control.

Mr. Goddard informed the Task Force that the Health Department has went approximately 9 months without euthanizing an adoptable dog at this time.

Ms. Cowens expressed that she feels prevention and education are also important components to consider in relations to a possible pet licensing program.

Following the discussion and per a consensus of the Task Force, Mr. Goddard reported that City staff would send out an e-mail to ask for volunteers who would like to serve on a Subcommittee to review the issue of a possible pet licensing program design with City staff. He noted that the Subcommittee would probably be conducting a meeting before the next Task Force meeting, which is scheduled for Monday, August 27, 2012.

Mr. Goddard informed the Task Force that he would try to arrange a viewing, possibly at the Health Department, regarding the webinar pertaining to the Calgary, Canada pet licensing model for those individuals who have been unable to see it at this time.

Mr. Goddard briefly discussed a potential location site for a possible animal shelter facility, which is near the City's Salt Dome off of Farm Road 123 and close to FF Highway (West By Pass). He added that this location would be near the City's site for the Yardwaste Recycling Center (YRC), which is part of Environmental Services. Mr. Goddard reported that infrastructure is available for utilities, such as gas, water, and sewer, and would not be located within the proximity to a residential area.

Several of the Task Force members expressed that they feel a more central location is needed.

In response to a question posed by Chairwoman Collette, Mr. Goddard reported that the available City owned area within the West Meadows would be in/near a floodplain. He noted that a central location would be very difficult to locate within the City due to a possible animal shelter facility needing to be located away from a residential and/or populated area. Mr. Goddard briefly addressed that the potential site location off of Farm Road 123 may not necessarily be ideal or centrally located, but would be near a major highway for easier access and would be easier for individuals to locate in the future, as well as would not be located within a flood plain and is owned by the City, so it would not have to be purchased.

Mr. Goddard noted that the potential location is only an option to consider at this time.

Mr. Goddard informed the Task Force that some funding/monies may be available to the City regarding the beginning stages of possibly a new animal shelter facility, which is time-sensitive due to the City working towards the Capital Improvement Plan at this time.

Several of the Task Force members expressed that they feel a possible new animal shelter facility is needed to better serve the animals and the Community.

Following further discussion, Gwen Evans moved for the Task Force to support the development and construction of possibly a new animal shelter facility, because it is needed, and to direct City staff to make arrangements to explore funding opportunities and to issue an RFQ (Request for Quote), as well as to explore the possibility of having consultants/experts confer with City staff regarding what type of options would be available in relations to possibly a new animal shelter facility.

Dr. Stafford seconded the motion, and it was approved.

The Task Force and City staff briefly discussed the potential costs regarding the development and construction of possibly a new animal shelter facility.

Mr. Voss expressed he feels a possible new animal shelter facility could cost at least \$2.5 million.

In relations to a question posed by Chairwoman Collette, Mr. Goddard noted that there seems to be no interest from the Springfield/Greene County Parks Department in regards to locating a possible new animal shelter facility near the Cruise Dog Park at this time.

The Task Force and Mr. Goddard briefly reviewed and discussed their "brain storming" session from last month's meeting. They briefly made some minor adjustments regarding their "brain storming" document at this time. *(Please refer to Exhibit B located within the City Clerk's Office for additional information.)*

Mr. Goddard informed the Task Force that City staff would e-mail out a newly updated "brain storming" session document in the near future.

Following further discussion, Chairwoman Collette requested that an agenda item be added to next month's agenda to discuss what type of features/amenities (i.e. a quarantine area, an adoption area, educational area, and outside runs) would be needed regarding a possible animal shelter facility, and to review various types of animal shelter facilities currently operating (i.e. Little Rock), as well as the issue of animal policies (i.e. "backyard breeders").

Dr. Stafford briefly explained that he feels a regional facility, which is noted on the "brain storming" document, should be explored.

In response to a question posed by Dr. Stafford, Mr. Goddard reported that information has not yet been compiled by City staff for the Task Force, such as what the cost is for some local municipalities regarding their intake expenses relating to animals, at this time.

Mr. Goddard reported that City staff would compile some information for the next upcoming meeting, such as a review of the Little Rock, Arkansas animal shelter facility.

The Task Force and City staff briefly discussed the possibility of developing a survey to help compile information to gather suggestions from the Community in relations to a possible animal shelter facility and animal control (i.e. spay and neutering).

Per a consensus of the Task Force, Mr. Brothers reported that City staff would review the issue associated with possibly developing a survey, as well as the potential costs related to composing and implementing a survey to see whether or not it could be implemented.

Mr. Goddard briefly addressed that the Humane Society of the United States has recently contacted the City regarding the issue of addressing feral cats within the Community, and has offered their resources/expertise to assist the City in handling feral cats.

Ms. Martin noted that she would like to conduct a presentation regarding the issue of feral/stray cats for the next upcoming meeting.

Per a consensus of the Task Force, Mr. Goddard reported that City staff would include a feral cat presentation as one of the first items on next month's meeting agenda.

Mr. Goddard reiterated that City staff would work on arranging a screening regarding the webinar in relations to Calgary, Canada's pet licensing program before next month's meeting.

In response to a question posed by Ms. Martin, Mr. Goddard briefly addressed the issue of ownership in relations to cats, which he stated is a "gray area." He explained that he feels if an individual is taking care of a stray/feral cat, such as providing it with food/water, the individual is essentially taking responsibility for the stray/feral cat.

Following further discussion, Mr. Goddard informed the Task Force that ordinance changes may be needed depending upon what the Task Force chooses to do in the future.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 27, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room-Busch Municipal Building.

The Task Force meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.

**Clerk's Note:** At tonight's meeting, Jim Swain, Citizen, distributed a copy of a letter dated July 29, 2012 in relations to the issues covered thus far by the Task Force (i.e. pet licensing). *(Please refer to Exhibit C located within the City Clerk's Office for additional information.)*